SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2008-2009

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Second Batch of the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2008-09. (Ends)

रेल मंत्री (श्री लालू प्रसाद): महोदय, मेरा supplementary पहले हो चुका है।

श्री उपसभापति: हां, वह हो गया है, कुछ reverse हुआ था, उसको reverse कर लेना था।

श्री लालू प्रसाद: महोदय, सब correct हो गया है।

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THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008 — *contd.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful to the seven hon. Members who have participated in this debate on amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code.

Sir, at the outset, I wish to say that this exercise has been gone through rather elaborately by the Committee and we have accepted many of the suggestions made by the Committee. The Criminal Procedure code is amended from time to time. I don't think there would ever be a point of time when we can say that all the amendments required to be carried out in the Code have been carried out and nothing more needs to be done, because as we live and learn, the Code has to be amended from time to time. Therefore, there are some amendments which have not yet been proposed and some amendments of the Committee which have not been accepted by the Government. I would like to request hon. Members to show some forbearance because as time goes on, many of these amendments can be considered again in greater depth and accepted.

Sir, these amendments which have been introduced today are based on suggestions made by the Law Commission in its 154th and 177th Reports and these Reports have been studied and examined in consultation with the State Governments. The matter was examined by a group of officers and then the Bill was introduced in 2006 in the Rajya Sabha. I don't need to go into the various provisions which have been introduced; they are there before the House. An important feature of the Bill relates to what is called "victimology". Provisions are being made that the victim of a crime can also engage an advocate of his or her choice to assist an investigation. A scheme is being formulated to provide compensation to victims of crimes. One of the most important features of the amending Bill is the provision of protection to women. It has been proposed that all rape cases, as far as practicable, would be tried in the court of a woman judge. I take note of what the hon. Member said. It may not be possible to have a woman judge